

On rollcall Nos. 686 and 687 I was unavoidably detained in the Atlanta airport.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Nos. 686, 687, and 691 and "no" on Nos. 689 and 690.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 743, TEAMWORK FOR EMPLOYEES AND MANAGERS ACT OF 1995

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 743, the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes to the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 743, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND DESIGNATION OF RANKING MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 229) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 229

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and they are hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

To the Committee on Commerce:
Cardiss Collins of Illinois, to rank above Ron Wyden of Oregon;

Bill Richardson of New Mexico, to rank above John Bryant of Texas.

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, designated ranking minority Member of the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

On the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

James Oberstar of Minnesota, to rank above Norman Mineta of California.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1915 AND H.R. 2202.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be re-

moved as a cosponsor of both H.R. 1915 and H.R. 2202.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TOMORROW, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1995, DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit tomorrow while the house is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule:

Committee on Agriculture; Committee on Banking and Financial Services; Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities; Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; Committee on International Relations; Committee on the Judiciary; Committee on Resources; Committee on Science; Committee on Small Business; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 108, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

Ms. PRYCE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-263) on the resolution (H. Res. 23) providing for the consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 108) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1977, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION ACT, 1996

Ms. PRYCE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-264) on the resolution (H. Res. 231) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1977) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2126, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Ms. PRYCE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-265) on the resolution (H. Res. 232) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2126) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1995

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 228 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 228

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1601) to authorize appropriations to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to develop, assemble, and operate the International Space Station. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science now printed in the bill. Each section of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio [Ms. PRYCE] is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this

resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. PRYCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to bring to the floor of the House today a straightforward open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1601, the International Space Station Authorization Act of 1995.

The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science, after which time the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The rule makes in order the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science, now printed in the bill, as an original bill for the purpose of amendment, and provides that each section shall be considered as read.

The rule also accords priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Any such amendments shall be considered as read.

Finally, the rule permits one motion to recommit the bill, with or without instructions, as is the right of the minority.

Mr. Speaker, the rule before us makes in order a very important piece of legislation which, by many accounts, could be called the Space Station Stability, Credibility, and Accountability Act.

H.R. 1601 restores a sense of stability to the Nation's space program by rec-

ommending a full-program, multiyear authorization of all funds needed to complete assembly of the space station by the year 2002. By reducing the need for yearly authorizations, H.R. 1601 signals Congress' strong commitment to completing the international space station on-time and just as importantly, on-budget.

H.R. 1601 also restores credibility to the space station program by declaring our Nation's intent to honor commitments to our international partners in this historic joint effort.

While the United States has clearly led the effort to design, construct, and operate the space station, this legislation recognizes that the continued support and participation of our international partners is essential to making space station *Alpha* a success.

Finally, the bill brings a welcome degree of accountability to the American people by requiring the Administrator of NASA to certify annually to Congress that the space station is on schedule and capable of staying within its budget.

The bill requires NASA to provide Congress each year with a full accounting of all costs associated with the space station, including payments which are made to Russia. In these budget-conscious times, Congress must ensure that the taxpayers are getting their money's worth.

Mr. Speaker, in 1993 the space station was significantly redesigned in order to reduce costs and simplify its management structure. H.R. 1601 continues that spirit of fiscal responsibility by capping the funds which may be appro-

priated in one fiscal year during the multiyear authorization.

However, spending on the space station would still be subject to the annual appropriations process—an important point to keep in mind as we further discuss budget priorities.

While Americans eagerly await the completion of this historic chapter in human spaceflight, Congress still has the obligation to review and debate the costs involved. H.R. 1601 offers the House a clear-cut, up-or-down vote on whether we will reaffirm our commitment to building the space station or if we will resign ourselves to lesser goals for the future of human space exploration.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman WALKER and the members of the Science Committee have put together a very responsible bill, and under the open rule, Members will have the opportunity to freely debate the many issues associated with the space station, not the least of which is its pricetag.

Although an amendment offered by our colleague from Indiana, Mr. ROEMER, to cancel the space station was defeated in the Science Committee, such an amendment can be brought before the entire House under this completely open rule.

Mr. Speaker, let me emphasize that House Resolution 228 is a simple, straightforward open rule. It was approved unanimously by the Rules Committee last week, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to give it their full support.

Mr. Speaker, I include material compiled by the Committee on Rules for the RECORD, as follows:

THE AMENDMENT PROCESS UNDER SPECIAL RULES REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE,¹ 103D CONGRESS V. 104TH CONGRESS

[As of September 27, 1995]

Rule type	103d Congress		104th Congress	
	Number of rules	Percent of total	Number of rules	Percent of total
Open/Modified-open ²	46	44	50	74
Modified Closed ³	49	47	15	22
Closed ⁴	9	9	3	4
Totals:	104	100	68	100

¹ This table applies only to rules which provide for the original consideration of bills, joint resolutions or budget resolutions and which provide for an amendment process. It does not apply to special rules which only waive points of order against appropriations bills which are already privileged and are considered under an open amendment process under House rules.

² An open rule is one under which any Member may offer a germane amendment under the five-minute rule. A modified open rule is one under which any Member may offer a germane amendment under the five-minute rule subject only to an overall time limit on the amendment process and/or a requirement that the amendment be preprinted in the Congressional Record.

³ A modified closed rule is one under which the Rules Committee limits the amendments that may be offered only to those amendments designated in the special rule or the Rules Committee report to accompany it, or which preclude amendments to a particular portion of a bill, even though the rest of the bill may be completely open to amendment.

⁴ A closed rule is one under which no amendments may be offered (other than amendments recommended by the committee in reporting the bill).

SPECIAL RULES REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE, 104TH CONGRESS

[As of September 27, 1995]

H. Res. No. (Date rept.)	Rule type	Bill No.	Subject	Disposition of rule
H. Res. 38 (1/18/95)	O	H.R. 5	Unfunded Mandate Reform	A: 350-71 (1/19/95).
H. Res. 44 (1/24/95)	MC	H. Con. Res. 17	Social Security	A: 255-172 (1/25/95).
		H.J. Res. 1	Balanced Budget Amdt	
H. Res. 51 (1/31/95)	O	H.R. 101	Land Transfer, Taos Pueblo Indians	A: voice vote (2/1/95).
H. Res. 52 (1/31/95)	O	H.R. 400	Land Exchange, Arctic Nat'l. Park and Preserve	A: voice vote (2/1/95).
H. Res. 53 (1/31/95)	O	H.R. 440	Land Conveyance, Butte County, Calif	A: voice vote (2/1/95).
H. Res. 55 (2/1/95)	O	H.R. 2	Line Item Veto	A: voice vote (2/2/95).
H. Res. 60 (2/6/95)	O	H.R. 665	Victim Restitution	A: voice vote (2/7/95).
H. Res. 61 (2/6/95)	O	H.R. 666	Exclusionary Rule Reform	A: voice vote (2/7/95).
H. Res. 63 (2/8/95)	MO	H.R. 667	Violent Criminal Incarceration	A: voice vote (2/9/95).
H. Res. 69 (2/9/95)	O	H.R. 668	Criminal Alien Deportation	A: voice vote (2/10/95).
H. Res. 79 (2/10/95)	MO	H.R. 728	Law Enforcement Block Grants	A: voice vote (2/13/95).
H. Res. 83 (2/13/95)	O	H.R. 7	National Security Revitalization	PO: 229-100; A: 227-127 (2/15/95).
H. Res. 88 (2/16/95)	MC	H.R. 831	Health Insurance Deductibility	PO: 230-191; A: 229-188 (2/21/95).
H. Res. 91 (2/21/95)	O	H.R. 830	Paperwork Reduction Act	A: voice vote (2/22/95).
H. Res. 92 (2/21/95)	MC	H.R. 889	Defense Supplemental	A: 282-144 (2/22/95).
H. Res. 93 (2/22/95)	MO	H.R. 450	Regulatory Transition Act	A: 252-175 (2/23/95).
H. Res. 96 (2/24/95)	MO	H.R. 1022	Risk Assessment	A: 253-165 (2/27/95).
H. Res. 100 (2/27/95)	O	H.R. 926	Regulatory Reform and Relief Act	A: voice vote (2/28/95).
H. Res. 101 (2/28/95)	MO	H.R. 925	Private Property Protection Act	A: 271-151 (3/2/95).
H. Res. 103 (3/3/95)	MO	H.R. 1058	Securities Litigation Reform	
H. Res. 104 (3/3/95)	MO	H.R. 988	Attorney Accountability Act	A: voice vote (3/6/95).

SPECIAL RULES REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE, 104TH CONGRESS—Continued

[As of September 27, 1995]

H. Res. No. (Date rept.)	Rule type	Bill No.	Subject	Disposition of rule
H. Res. 105 (3/6/95)	MO			A: 257-155 (3/7/95).
H. Res. 108 (3/7/95)	Debate	H.R. 956	Product Liability Reform	A: voice vote (3/8/95).
H. Res. 109 (3/8/95)	MC			PQ: 234-191 A: 247-181 (3/9/95).
H. Res. 115 (3/14/95)	MO	H.R. 1159	Making Emergency Supp. Approps.	A: 242-190 (3/15/95).
H. Res. 116 (3/15/95)	MC	H.J. Res. 73	Term Limits Const. Amdt	A: voice vote (3/28/95).
H. Res. 117 (3/16/95)	Debate	H.R. 4	Personal Responsibility Act of 1995	A: voice vote (3/21/95).
H. Res. 119 (3/21/95)	MC			A: 217-211 (3/22/95).
H. Res. 125 (4/3/95)	O	H.R. 1271	Family Privacy Protection Act	A: 423-1 (4/4/95).
H. Res. 126 (4/3/95)	O	H.R. 660	Older Persons Housing Act	A: voice vote (4/6/95).
H. Res. 128 (4/4/95)	MC	H.R. 1215	Contract With America Tax Relief Act of 1995	A: 228-204 (4/5/95).
H. Res. 130 (4/5/95)	MC	H.R. 483	Medicare Select Expansion	A: 253-172 (4/6/95).
H. Res. 136 (5/1/95)	O	H.R. 655	Hydrogen Future Act of 1995	A: voice vote (5/2/95).
H. Res. 139 (5/3/95)	O	H.R. 1361	Coast Guard Auth. FY 1996	A: voice vote (5/9/95).
H. Res. 140 (5/9/95)	O	H.R. 961	Clean Water Amendments	A: 414-4 (5/10/95).
H. Res. 144 (5/11/95)	O	H.R. 535	Fish Hatchery—Arkansas	A: voice vote (5/15/95).
H. Res. 145 (5/11/95)	O	H.R. 584	Fish Hatchery—Iowa	A: voice vote (5/15/95).
H. Res. 146 (5/11/95)	O	H.R. 614	Fish Hatchery—Minnesota	A: voice vote (5/15/95).
H. Res. 149 (5/16/95)	MC	H. Con. Res. 67	Budget Resolution FY 1996	PQ: 252-170 A: 255-168 (5/17/95).
H. Res. 155 (5/22/95)	MO	H.R. 1561	American Overseas Interests Act	A: 233-176 (5/23/95).
H. Res. 164 (6/8/95)	MC	H.R. 1530	Nat. Defense Auth. FY 1996	PQ: 225-191 A: 233-183 (6/13/95).
H. Res. 167 (6/15/95)	O	H.R. 1817	MillCon Appropriations FY 1996	PQ: 223-180 A: 245-155 (6/16/95).
H. Res. 169 (6/19/95)	MC	H.R. 1854	Leg. Branch Approps. FY 1996	PQ: 232-196 A: 236-191 (6/20/95).
H. Res. 170 (6/20/95)	O	H.R. 1868	For. Ops. Approps. FY 1996	PQ: 221-178 A: 217-175 (6/22/95).
H. Res. 171 (6/22/95)	O	H.R. 1905	Energy & Water Approps. FY 1996	A: voice vote (7/12/95).
H. Res. 173 (6/27/95)	C	H.J. Res. 79	Flag Constitutional Amendment	PQ: 258-170 A: 271-152 (6/28/95).
H. Res. 176 (6/28/95)	MC	H.R. 1944	Emer. Supp. Approps.	PQ: 236-194 A: 234-192 (6/29/95).
H. Res. 185 (7/1/95)	O	H.R. 1977	Interior Approps. FY 1996	PQ: 235-193 D: 192-238 (7/12/95).
H. Res. 187 (7/12/95)	O	H.R. 1977	Interior Approps. FY 1996 #2	PQ: 230-194 A: 229-195 (7/13/95).
H. Res. 188 (7/12/95)	O	H.R. 1976	Agriculture Approps. FY 1996	PQ: 242-185 A: voice vote (7/18/95).
H. Res. 190 (7/17/95)	O	H.R. 2020	Treasury/Postal Approps. FY 1996	PQ: 232-192 A: voice vote (7/18/95).
H. Res. 193 (7/19/95)	C	H.J. Res. 96	Disapproval of MFN to China	A: voice vote (7/20/95).
H. Res. 194 (7/19/95)	O	H.R. 2002	Transportation Approps. FY 1996	PQ: 217-202 (7/21/95).
H. Res. 197 (7/21/95)	O	H.R. 70	Exports of Alaskan Crude Oil	A: voice vote (7/24/95).
H. Res. 198 (7/21/95)	O	H.R. 2076	Commerce, State Approps. FY 1996	A: voice vote (7/25/95).
H. Res. 201 (7/25/95)	O	H.R. 2099	VA/HUD Approps. FY 1996	A: 230-189 (7/25/95).
H. Res. 204 (7/28/95)	MC	S. 21	Terminating U.S. Arms Embargo on Bosnia	A: voice vote (8/1/95).
H. Res. 205 (7/28/95)	O	H.R. 2126	Defense Approps. FY 1996	A: 409-1 (7/31/95).
H. Res. 207 (8/1/95)	MC	H.R. 1555	Communications Act of 1995	A: 255-156 (8/2/95).
H. Res. 208 (8/1/95)	O	H.R. 2127	Labor, HHS Approps. FY 1996	A: 323-104 (8/2/95).
H. Res. 215 (9/7/95)	O	H.R. 1594	Economically Targeted Investments	A: voice vote (9/12/95).
H. Res. 216 (9/7/95)	MO	H.R. 1655	Intelligence Authorization FY 1996	A: voice vote (9/12/95).
H. Res. 218 (9/12/95)	O	H.R. 1162	Deficit Reduction Lockbox	A: voice vote (9/13/95).
H. Res. 219 (9/12/95)	O	H.R. 1670	Federal Acquisition Reform Act	A: 414-0 (9/13/95).
H. Res. 222 (9/18/95)	O	H.R. 1617	CAREERS Act	A: 388-2 (9/19/95).
H. Res. 224 (9/19/95)	O	H.R. 2274	Natl. Highway System	PQ: 241-173 A: 375-39-1 (9/20/95).
H. Res. 225 (9/19/95)	MC	H.R. 927	Cuban Liberty & Dem. Solidarity	A: 304-118 (9/20/95).
H. Res. 226 (9/21/95)	O	H.R. 743	Team Act	A: 344-66-1 (9/27/95).
H. Res. 227 (9/21/95)	O	H.R. 1170	3-Judge Court	
H. Res. 228 (9/21/95)	O	H.R. 1601	Internatl. Space Station	
H. Res. _____ (9/27/95)	C	H.J. Res. 108	Continuing Resolution FY 1996	

Codes: O=open rule; MO=modified open rule; MC=modified closed rule; C=closed rule; A=adoption vote; D=defeated; PQ=previous question vote. Source: Notices of Action Taken, Committee on Rules, 104th Congress.

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HALL of Ohio asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my fellow Ohioan, Ms. PRYCE, as well as my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for bringing this rule to the floor.

House Resolution 228 is an open rule which will allow full and fair debate on H.R. 1601, a bill to authorize appropriations to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to develop, assemble, and operate the international space station.

As my colleague from Ohio has ably described, this rule provides 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science.

Under the rule, germane amendments will be allowed under the 5-minute rule, the normal amending process in the House. All Members, on both sides of the aisle, will have the opportunity to offer amendments. I am pleased that the Rules Committee reported this rule by voice vote without opposition and urge its adoption.

The international space station will expand our knowledge of the universe and assist a wide range of scientific

programs. By forming a partnership with other nations, we will help defray some costs and foster closer relations between our peoples.

The bill provides authorization levels through fiscal year 2002. This will give the project needed stability, while still allowing congressional oversight through the annual appropriations process.

Mr. Speaker, this open rule will permit full discussion of these issues and given Members an opportunity to amend the bill. I urge adoption of the rule.

□ 1915

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN].

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1601 and full program authorization for the international space station.

This past summer the attention of America was once again captured by the thrilling story of Apollo 13. The only thing more incredible than the story this movie told, was the fact that it is all true—that over 20 years ago, this Nation was united in the greatest technological leap the human race had ever undertaken.

All of America was rightly proud of our astronauts and the thousands of dedicated workers that sent them to the Moon and brought them home safely.

We now have a chance to revive that spirit, and display the vision of a better future and the leadership of mankind, that has always made America great. The international space station is that future.

And while the space station represents the dreams of our children, it is no idle fantasy. To date over 48,000 pounds of station hardware has been completed and production remains ahead of schedule. The first launch of this hardware is scheduled for November 1997, aboard a Russian Proton rocket.

The United States, and especially the people of Utah, have always been pioneers. And I think I've heard someone say, "space, is the final frontier." I, for one, believe that Americans should continue to lead the world into the new millennium. And while we will—and must—lead the way, we will not be alone. Many of our allies in the European Community, Canada, Japan, and Russia are making very significant contributions of people, hardware and financial support. This spirit of a new cooperation in space was never more clearly demonstrated than last June when the space shuttle Atlantis docked with the Russian space station Mir and returned to Earth with two Russian

cosmonauts and American astronaut Norm Thagard.

However, even with the critical support provided by our international partners, it will always require America's technological expertise, international leadership, and can-do attitude to make this vision a success. Let us now send a clear message to our partners in space that America will proudly accept the mantle of leadership.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for the future of the human race, and to vote for continued American leadership. I urge you all to vote for rule and the international space station and support H.R. 1601.

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON], a valuable new Member of the Congress.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and I rise in support of this rule and in support of H.R. 1601, the 7-year authorization of the international space station.

We, here in Congress, are about the important work of the people's business, work like protecting and preserving Medicare for our senior citizens, balancing our budget and meaningful welfare reform that restores the value of hard work and family.

But although those issues are very, very important, I know that those are not the issues that allow our children to dream about the future, and it is things like our space program, and I can say that not only from talking to my daughter and children in my district when I talk to them about our space program, but also I know that from experience because I one day as a young man was able to watch programs like Mercury and Apollo and dream someday of being a part of that, myself.

This international space station program, I think, is the next logical step for our space program, and it is amazingly on budget and on time, which is truly a rarity for the institution that we work in.

Each year, the Congress has consistently voted in support of our space station, and each year the numbers have grown and grown and grown. This year, as the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio alluded to, the number was again very, very high, almost 2-to-1 voting in support of our space station.

We now have before us a rule on a bill to authorize this so we no longer are getting in the process of debating this over and over again. I think this is a good rule. It allows for amendments. It allows for open debate. I thoroughly support it.

I think the MIR docking mission that my colleague from Utah was speaking of earlier clearly shows that the United States has the ability to proceed with this program. The question before us is: Do we have the will? From the previous votes in this body, it has been demonstrated that clearly the will is

there, and I applaud my colleagues on the Committee on Science who have brought this final bill to the floor for a vote. I applaud my colleagues on the Committee on Rules on this rule.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support the rule and support the final bill in passage.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Rules Committee for its decision allowing a 1-hour open rule to debate H.R. 1601, the multiyear authorization of the international space station. In giving preference to amendments preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the committee has made our efforts family-friendly, which we can all appreciate. Finally, the Rules Committee's decisions give us the change for a fair and open discussion of the space station, its benefits, and the need for a multiyear authorization.

The international space station is about America's future. With an orbiting space station, the United States will have long term access to the unique environment of space, which will enable us to conduct cutting-edge research in the life and microgravity sciences that we cannot do on earth. The space shuttle has been an excellent platform from which to conduct research into medicines, materials, and physical processes, but our research capabilities are now bumping against the shuttle's most significant limitation as a research platform: time. The shuttle cannot stay in orbit for more than a few days and flight opportunities occur only a few times every year. So, we cannot conduct the kinds of long-term experiments necessary to push the state of our knowledge to the next level. By operating as a continually manned-platform, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the space station will solve that problem. With a functioning space station, we can look forward to breakthroughs in crystal formation, medical research, biological behavior, materials science, and a host of other disciplines that will improve our standard of living.

That's why members of The Seniors Coalition wrote me to express their support for the space station and the benefits it will bring to the study of aging. That's why the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America supports the space station and the potential research benefits it will bring to children afflicted by MS. That's why the American Medical Women's Association is in favor of the space station and all the opportunities it creates to improve women's health.

The space station program we are considering now is not the same one that NASA began in 1984. This space station is managed under a streamlined singled-prime contractor scheme that reduces bureaucracy and saves money. This space station is capped at \$2.1 billion per year, less than 15 percent of NASA's annual budget. The station will cost \$13.2 billion to complete in 2002, by which time it will have already begun producing the research results that will benefit every American. The space station program we are dealing with today is on budget and on schedule for orbital assembly to begin in 1997. American companies and our foreign partners have already built over 48,000 pounds of hardware. This space station program is a success.

H.R. 1601, the multiyear space station authorization, will provide the funding stability that ensure the space station remains on budget and on schedule. In past years, con-

stant redesigns and rescopings denied the station that stability and caused delays and cost increases. This Congress must not allow that to happen again. We fulfill our role by providing NASA the resources it needs to do the job right, and then by demanding the accountability and responsible management that the space station program is currently demonstrating. We begin doing our part by passing H.R. 1601.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 228 and rule XXII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1601.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1601) to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to develop, assemble, and operate the international space station, with Mr. HOBSON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. HALL] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER].

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. SENSENBRENNER], the chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 1601, the International Space Station Authorization Act of 1995. Many have risen to explain the benefits of the space station today in this Chamber and on numerous occasions in the past. I will not repeat those reasons here. Instead, I will explain why H.R. 1601 is an important part of enabling us to realize those benefits.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania and I cosponsored this bill because it places NASA and the space station on the path of fiscal responsibility. For years, NASA and the White House have been hard-pressed to settle on a space station design and budget that Congress could support. NASA has finally rectified that problem through a series of positive steps, that make the international step station an excellent foundation on which to build the future of our civilian space program.

First, NASA finalized the design into its current form, which includes participation from Europe, Japan, and Canada. The Russians are full partners in the international space station, giving us access to their advanced space hardware, their space industrial base, and their years of experience of living and working in space. With the Russians and Europeans as partners, NASA has designed a space station that will cost the American taxpayers less than its predecessors and have nearly double the capacity.

Second, NASA streamlined management of the space station program by placing the program under a single prime contractor. This reduced bureaucratic and contractor overhead and improved management, enabling NASA to build the station under a budget cap of \$2.1 billion a year, about 15 percent of its annual debt.

Third, NASA has begun exploring means of commercializing and privatizing space station operations to lower operational costs. NASA has gone so far as to begin discussions with companies that design business parks to see which concepts they can apply to the station's future in space. H.R. 1601 encourages this process by making station commercialization a provision of law.

As a result of these actions, the station is on time and on budget. We have built over 48,000 pounds of hardware for delivery to orbit and will launch the first station element in 1997.

Taken in its entirety, H.R. 1601 authorizes \$13.1 billion to complete and operate the space station through final assembly in fiscal year 2002. H.R. 1601 also includes an annual cap of \$2.1 billion for the space station. The multiyear authorization gives NASA the financial and programmatic stability it needs to complete the station on time and on budget, while the annual cap forces NASA to maintain its fiscal discipline. H.R. 1601 and the space station are NASA's highest priority and fall well within our own plans to balance the Federal budget within the next 7 years.

The space station is about our future. It is about progress, and improving the technological seed corn of future economic growth. We need it. H.R. 1601 is about fiscal responsibility; about stepping up to our obligation as legislators to enable bureaucracies to do those things we ask them to do with greater efficiency and effectiveness. The American people have made it clear that they support our future in space. And we made it clear that we heard them when this Congress rejected 2 attempts to cancel the space station by huge margins of 173 and 153 votes. Now it is the time to provide the stability needed to achieve the efficiencies and savings that Americans demand from their Government by passing H.R. 1601.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I think it comes as no surprise to anyone in this Chamber that I am prepared to speak on behalf of the space station program. I have supported this program in the past, in good times and bad, and I will continue to do so.

You will hear many speakers today describe the importance of the space station, and you may also hear from a few Members who believe that the money could better be used elsewhere. I obviously don't agree with that latter group of Members, but I respect their right to be wrong on this issue. And I assure them that they will receive time to speak.

Why do I continue to support the space station? There are many reasons that I could give. First, the station is a fundamental part of the Nation's space program and it is the logical next step in human spaceflight. I my years on the Space Subcommittee, I have become even more certain that the space station is a key element of a balanced program of space exploration, scientific research, and practical applications.

Second, the space station program helps the Nation maintain and strengthen its pool of skilled scientific and technological talent—which will be so critical to our economic competitiveness in the 21st century.

Third, the space station represents the most significant cooperative, cost-sharing undertaking in science and technology probably in the history of the world. The United States, Russia, Europe, Japan, and Canada are all working together and sharing the cost of this program. It is an approach that makes good sense, and one which will strengthen the bonds between these nations and certainly has a very good product.

Finally, and for me, most importantly, research conducted on the space station offers the promise of helping us to make significant advances in our understanding of terrestrial diseases and medical conditions that have afflicted our people—young and old—male and female.

Over the past 3 years, the Space Subcommittee has held a series of hearings on the potential benefits of biomedical research conducted in space. I chaired those hearings, and I am here to report that the results achieved to date from the limited research that can be done on the shuttle are truly impressive, but much more remains to be done.

All of the witness, or most of the witnesses, that have testified at those hearings are convinced that the opportunity to conduct long-duration research on a permanently-manned space station is indispensable if we are to continue to make advances. As the noted surgeon and researcher, Dr. Michael DeBakey put it,

The Space Station is not a luxury any more than a medical research center at Baylor College of Medicine is a luxury.

He knows that in the weightless environment of space, that just might

spawn the answers to those who are wasting away in cancer wards, young girls and young boys who have to hit themselves with the vaccination for the dreaded disease of diabetes and on and on.

I could quote many other eminent researchers that echo his view, but I know that other Members are waiting to speak.

I would just like to conclude by saying even in these tough budgetary times, the space station is an investment that will pay back enormous benefits, enormous dividends.

I urge Members to support it.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SCHIFF].

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman of our committee for yielding time to me.

I want to say that every time we reach this point of the debate on the space station, I cannot help but think back 500 years and a little bit more, and I am very grateful that nobody was able to persuade Queen Isabella of Spain, please do not finance this exploration across the ocean to the unknown when we have unmet needs here in Spain.

I am sure that Spain at that time, just as all countries at this time, did have unmet needs. I am sure that money that financed Christopher Columbus' voyage could have been spent very usefully inside Spain at that time. But instead, the Spanish Government decided to invest in exploration. They did not know what they would get back for it. They did know if they would get anything back for it. I am sure they must have had serious doubts whether they would ever see those ships again. The result is that the United States of America exists today as a country in part as a direct result of that exploration more than 500 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, I feel the same way about the space station. There are many other reasonable and important needs which can readily be identified by any Member of this body as to where else we could put the money, and they would all be legitimate points, I am sure. Further, those of us who support the space station cannot tell Members today exactly what we will have as a result of it in the future. But we can say this. We can say first that exploration and scientific research has always produced advances for mankind, has always increased our knowledge.

Second, exploration and scientific research have always come back to help the economy and to help consumers. We already know that many of the everyday items we use were developed in research originally intended for the space program.

So for those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I support the passage of H.R. 1601.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from

California [Mr. BROWN], longtime chairman of the Committee on Science and ranking member.

(Mr. BROWN of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for this opportunity and I will try and be brief.

First of all, I admire the statements made by both the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. SENSENBRENNER] and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. HALL] in support of the space station. I have made many similar speeches over the years.

I have come to an unfortunate conclusion which was reflected in my vote on the appropriations bill, that we are heading down a path which endangers the future success of the space station; namely, a continued decrease in the NASA budget with a provision that protects the space station against any cuts and, therefore, these cuts must be taken out of other NASA programs such as aeronautical research or mission to planet Earth, other very important programs.

My fear has been, and I hope that I am wrong, that as we unravel these other programs, we will unravel the political support for the space station and for the whole of NASA. I have used this opportunity for a debate on the space station to reveal my concerns about what may happen in the future.

I hope that I am wrong. I firmly believe that we need a space station in the future of this country and in the future of our space program. While I do not want to be a Cassandra, I am deeply concerned. I have expressed my concern to everybody who would listen. We cannot continue to support and protect this particular part of our great adventure in space without wondering about being concerned about what is happening overall to the totality. And it is the totality of the interests which support the space program that will allow it to continue into the future.

Mr. Chairman, I will be brief in my remarks, because the debate on H.R. 1601 has little to do with the reality of what is happening to NASA this year. H.R. 1601 is a feel good—but fundamentally irrelevant—bill that gives Members the illusion that they are providing long term funding stability to the space station program. Of course, this legislation will do no such thing, but it is a comforting fiction to embrace in the current chaotic budgetary environment.

Like many issues that have come to the floor this year, there is little in the public record or in the hearing process to justify this legislation. If station is truly the only priority for the space program, what will be the implications if we decimate all other areas of NASA? Will a space station still make sense as a national policy? In addition, can the space station actually remain on track within the budget climate that has been promised by the Republicans? For better or worse, H.R. 1601 has now reached the floor of the House, and I am sure that its supporters have diligently counted votes. In all likelihood it will pass by a comfortable margin. What then will be the impact of its passage?

I submit that very little will have changed. We need only look as far as the House and Senate VA-HUD and Independent Agencies appropriation bills for proof. In both cases, the Appropriations Committees had to fence \$390 million in space station spending until almost the end of fiscal year 1996 because they needed to fix an outlay problem in the overall bills. That is not a particularly auspicious start to providing funding stability to the space station program. Indeed, it seems eerily reminiscent of the bad old days of budgetary smoke and mirrors. And it can only get worse as the ill-considered assumptions behind the Republican budgetary proposals require ever greater contortions in the years ahead.

Consider the assumptions behind the House Republican proposals for the NASA budget over the next 5 years. They assumed that Mission to Planet Earth could be restructured to save almost \$3 billion. When the National Academy of Sciences reported on its recent review of the program, it could find no credible justification for such cuts and indeed recommended that no further cuts be made to the program.

Next, consider the House Republican budgetary assumptions regarding the space shuttle. They assumed that the shuttle budget could be reduced an additional \$1.5 billion below the President's planned reductions by privatizing the shuttle. While it sounds good, the Space Subcommittee held a hearing today in which witnesses expressed concern over the potential safety impacts of funding cuts already made to the shuttle program, let alone the impact of additional massive reductions.

As you can tell, I think these budgetary proposals are wrongheaded and if sustained will do significant damage to our Nation's space program and to our R&D infrastructure. I will continue to speak out against them. Until we address the fundamental question of whether or not we are prepared to fund a vital and robust space program, bills such as H.R. 1601 will be no more than meaningless diversions.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, Just 2 months ago, in July, the House voted twice on amendments to terminate NASA's International Space Station Program. Both of these amendments were defeated by record margins, the first by a vote of 126 yeas to 299 nays and the second by 132 yeas to 287 nays.

So, Mr. Chairman, to most of my colleagues, the question of building the space station is behind us and America's future in space has been secured. We can all be proud of the votes that we cast in July and be assured that the international space station is on schedule and on budget; that is, until next year.

The reason why I bring H.R. 1601 before the House today is to give the international space station a full program, multiyear commitment to finish the job on time and on budget.

H.R. 1601 will set in law NASA's timetable and their budget for completing what we have started. H.R. 1601 sends a powerful signal to our international partners that Congress is up to the job of finishing this project on time. But it also sends a powerful signal here to ourselves about the way

that we want NASA to do the people's business. How many times has this House debated whether to proceed with the station? How many times has Congress caused NASA to redesign the program by cutting the annual appropriation to pay for some other need some year? How many years have been lost by redesigning and rephrasing the project? How much money has been wasted through trial and error as Congress has ordered one change after another? Too many times, too many years, too much waste, too many changes, Mr. Chairman.

How often in the past 5 years has this House devoted its precious time and conducted purposeful debates on the fate of the space station, only to conclude each time to continue building it?

Mr. Chairman, the House has consistently voted to support space station's development every time since it was proposed in 1984 under Republican and Democratic Presidents, through four significant redesign efforts and under equally distressing fiscal circumstances.

In November, the American people voted for change in the way Congress does business. Surely the American people want Congress to stop wasting money on programs and the subsidies that they can neither see nor understand. But I believe the succession of votes the House has taken over 10 years to build the space station demonstrates that consternation over building it lays only with some Members of the House and not with the American people.

This legislation to commit the Nation to finish what it has started is a new way of doing business. It represents a change in the way Congress does business because it says, here is our highest space priority and we are going to finish it. Passage of a full program authorization for the space station will be a breath of fresh air to those who have watched in amazement while successive Congresses have revisited, revised, and reinvented space station year after year.

America would have a space station orbiting the earth today had it not been for the on again off again commitment by previous Congresses to finish the project. H.R. 1601 says that the space station belongs to the American people. Congress has not canceled the program but has done something worse. Each year we have allowed the program to be bled to near death only to watch its schedule slip, its design change, and its future be jeopardized.

Mr. Chairman, the overwhelming vote in the House this year to continue funding of space station is owed to one essential fact: Since being redesigned in 1993, the space station program has produce on its commitment for the Congress. The space station program has produce 54,000 pounds of flight hardware in less than 2 years. Our international partners have built some 60,000 pounds for flight. This program

now keeps its schedule and has stayed below its annual funding cap.

The reason for H.R. 1601 is to capture the success of the new design. We have had 2 years without a redesign, 2 years of stable funding and 2 years of remarkable progress. I believe that NASA Administrator Dan Goldin is to be commended for providing the leadership and for turning the project around. This is the new NASA at work, and I am very proud to recognize this turnaround with this bill.

How does H.R. 1601 work? First, it sets an annual cap of \$2.1 billion for any 1 fiscal year of the program between the years 1996 and 2002. Second, it sets a total cost to complete and provide initial operational funds at \$13.1 billion. The practical effect of those two numbers, Mr. Chairman, is that it forces NASA to ramp down spending on the project in fiscal years 1998 through completion in the year 2002. In other words, H.R. 1601 assures us that annual appropriations requested to finish the project diminish over time.

It is important to note that while H.R. 1601 provides a full program authorization, annual appropriations are still necessary. Under the bill, when the President submits the annual budget request for space station, NASA must certify to Congress that the program can be completed on time and on budget. It must also certify that no delays are foreseen at the time of the certification and that the program reserves cover all potential unbudgeted cost threats.

Our strategy is to continue to oversee the program's execution through the parameters set by H.R. 1601, which are based on NASA's own projections of cost. For a change, we take Congress out of the design loop and let NASA build what it promised us we could have. Having said that, I believe NASA is being put under the gun by H.R. 1601. These promises will be hard to live by, but they are exactly what we need to keep the program on schedule.

There are two reasons why schedule is important, Mr. Chairman. First, finishing the program on time saves money. Second, keeping on schedule means keeping our partners in Europe, Japan, Canada, and Russia on time and keeping their costs as partners under control.

Back in July, when this House defeated the naysayers and voted to continue building America's future in space, many of us recognized the impact that terminating space station would have on our international partnerships. Had the program been canceled, clearly there would have been no chance to attempt other far-reaching science projects too expensive for America to pay for by itself. We recognized the long-range impact such a failure would have on any cooperation in science.

Back in July, I spoke about the need to explore and to expand the human spirit. I talked about being bold and being free.

Mr. Chairman, now that we have said that the space station deserves its one-tenth of 1 percent of the Federal budget, can we also say that we have the vision to complete this project on time? I am tempted to say more, much more about the creation of knowledge about diseases and materials that can only be found in the vacuum of space or in the absence of gravity. I am tempted to point out to my colleagues that we have a vision of space development that merely begins with this NASA-sponsored outpost but which flourishes into an Earth-space economy based upon inventions and materials that we have not thought of here on Earth because our vision is too weighted down by the power of gravity.

But today is not about the survival of the space station. It is really a debate about how we choose to do business and how we choose to manage the public tax dollars. We are going to build the international space station. The real questions are how, when, and for how much. H.R. 1601 says, here it is, finish it by the year 2002, and do not ask for more money.

Mr. Chairman, to conclude, H.R. 1601 is an insurance policy on the votes we cast in July to continue this vital international space venture. It underwrites our investment this year by setting a schedule and a budget for completion.

We believe this legislation is good for NASA and good for the American people. The space station is theirs. They deserve it. Let us once and for all commit ourselves to finishing what we have struggled over the years to start. Before us is an opportunity to draw a big, bold circle around one of humankind's most astonishing new frontiers. So join me in closing the loop. Join me in voting for H.R. 1601, our commitment to finish the job on the space station.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. ROEMER], a very affable and very valuable member of the Committee on Science.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to salute the distinguished gentleman from Texas, who I have the utmost respect for and enjoy his sense of humor in our Committee on Science. He usually whups me out here on the floor on the space station battle, but I can only say that the fighting Irish of Notre Dame took it to them in the football game this past Saturday. That is where I have to go for my wins these days, not on the House floor, but I have a great deal of respect for Mr. HALL.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is not about whether we are for or against the space station. That is absolutely not what we are talking about in H.R. 1601. As the chairman of the committee said, we had that fight. I lost. We lost. But the last thing that one does when one is fighting in these kinds of times when we are trying to make tough decisions

to balance the budget, when we are trying to cut back on some Government programs that have been around forever, which I support cutting back on a number of these programs, when some Members are talking about kicking children out of Head Start programs, cutting back on Medicare, is to give a free ride to the space station, to give \$13.1 billion over the next 7 years to the space station. That is not an insurance policy, it is an insulation policy.

We are saying for 7 years we are going to give them \$13 billion, and we are not going to have the kind of oversight, we are not going to have the kind of jurisdiction, we are not going to have the kind of tough hearings that every Government program should have, whether it is Head Start. We can do Head Start better.

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Mr. Chairman, I fully support Head Start programs, but we can do it better. We should have hearings on Head Start. But here we go on a \$13.1 billion, 7-year authorization bill. Let us have this battle every year. Let us make sure that they are on budget if Congress decides to fund this program. Let us make sure they are not slipping behind 2, and 3, and 4 years. Let us make sure it is an international space station.

Mr. Chairman, the Italians dropped out of this program. Who else is going to drop out of this program in the next few years? The Russians are negotiating with the Americans in Houston. They want control over the propulsion and navigation systems. Does that make it possible that the Russians would have total control over the space station in the year 2002 or 2008, whenever it is finished, and the United States would not even be the first ones into the space station?

What about our role as representatives to oversee how tax dollars are spent in Washington, DC? Let us be accountable to the taxpayers of this country and not give a \$13.1 billion, 7-year authorization to a space station that has moved from \$8 billion in 1984 to \$94 billion total cost projected by the year 2015 when maintenance and everything else is done on this space station.

Now I am not too worried, Mr. Chairman, because I do not think the Senate is going to take this up. I think this bill is going to die in the rotunda and not get any further over to the Senate floor, and I hope that is where it dies. But I certainly think that we have a responsibility when we are in this tough budgetary environment, when we are going to fight for a balanced budget by the year 2002, when we are going to make tough decisions to cut programs.

I can only say, Mr. Chairman, that this reminds me of when I used to play Monopoly when I was a kid and there was a card that they used to give us that we could just go around "Go," did not have to stop, did not have to take any risks, did not have to risk jail, or

go across Boardwalk, or buy any homes, take any responsibility. One got a free ride, the free-ride card. That is what this is. This is the free-ride bill.

H.R. 1601 is not about whether my colleagues support the space station. It is about whether or not they want to do their job as a Representative of the taxpaying citizens of this country and make the space station accountable, just as the Hubble is accountable, just as Head Start is accountable, and just as every government program should be accountable.

Again I thank the distinguished gentleman from the State of Texas [Mr. HALL] for having yielded this time to me.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume before yielding to the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRABACHER].

Mr. Chairman, I just think it is important to correct a couple of points made by the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. ROEMER].

First of all, this is not a giveaway of any money. This is a cap; this is a spending cap. The very problems that the gentleman outlines are what this bill addresses by assuring that we are operating within spending caps in a year and we are operating with an overall spending cap. The \$13.1 billion that he suggests is an overall spending cap in the bill. It is, in fact, a definition of fiscal responsibility, of what we are doing here.

Second, the gentleman mentioned in his remarks that the Italians have dropped out of the program. That has not happen. There are, in fact, some allocation questions that are now occurring in the European space community, but the Italians have distinctly not dropped out of the program at the present time.

In addition the gentleman is also wrong with regard to the prospects of this bill in the United States Senate. This is a bill which I have talked to the chairman of the authorizing subcommittee in the Senate, and he is very interested in proceeding with this bill. So we do have an opportunity with this bill to attain the kind of fiscal responsibility that I think all programs should have, and the fact is, as the gentleman mentions some educational programs, a number of those programs in the educational area are forward-funded. They do have multiyear approaches, and we in fact did go back and review them on a regular basis, and every year we still have appropriations bills coming here so that we can review these issues. Every year this committee is going to hold hearings on the overall NASA programs, and we are going to look at how the space station program is proceeding. All this does is assures that we are doing it within the constraints that NASA itself says are appropriate for doing this station, and I just beg to differ with the gentleman with regard to what we are doing here.

Mr. Chairman, we are doing the fiscally responsible thing for once. We

very seldom have done that in a lot of these science programs.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WALKER. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Chairman, I would just respectfully disagree with a number of things the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] has said.

First of all, it is called an international space station when in fact we send about \$400 million to the Russians to get their participation in the space station.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chairman, we are buying goods from them. The gentleman understands that what we are doing is we are buying products and services from the Russians as a part of the overall effort. It is not a giveaway to them. We actually get hardware and services in return for the money that we are paying.

Mr. ROEMER. If that is the gentleman's idea of a partnership in international space, I wish somebody was doing that with me with my investments in mutual funds, or whatever I decided to, that they would put up the money, and take the risk, and just give me the money to do it.

An international space station; I think the connotations are that people put up their money, and it is not the U.S. taxpayer sending money off to the Russians.

Mr. WALKER. But in fact, I would say to the gentleman, is that several of our allies have devoted several billion dollars of spending of their own in this partnership. The Europeans and the Japanese have both put up hundreds of millions of dollars, into the billions of dollars railroad already in the program, and will put up substantially more in the future.

So again I think the gentleman misrepresents the situation. I do have to yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROEMER. Could I just make one point?

Mr. WALKER. Yes; I yield to the gentleman briefly.

Mr. ROEMER. As the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] knows, in our rules of the House it does state that we will in the Committee on Science have a continuing review of the different programs under our jurisdiction, and I just want the gentleman to give us assurances that we will continue to have oversight hearings of the space station, both pro and critical hearings.

Mr. WALKER. Absolutely. This in no way will interfere with our ability or willingness to do that. Our committee is going to continue to maintain a very firm jurisdictional interest in what goes on in space station, but we are also going to make certain that the program is stabilized in a way that assures that it remains on budget and on time.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRABACHER].

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this legislation and the priority and direction it gives to the Space Station Program. I would like to praise the chairman of the Science Committee, Mr. WALKER, my subcommittee chairman, Mr. SENBRENNER, and the former chairman, Mr. HALL of Texas, for their hard work in bringing this bill to the floor.

This multiyear authorization of the international space station is a bold and timely move which will send an unmistakable message to the other body, to the President, to our international partners, to many entrepreneurs and scientists who will use the space station, and to the American people.

Why are we authorizing the Space Station through to completion this year? Not just because the space station has been restructured and is now on a steady course within budgetary limits. Not just because the space station will be an invaluable research laboratory in the unique environment of space. Not just because with the decline of the defense budget, it is vital to engage American and Russian aerospace industries in a positive joint effort.

Mr. Chairman, to me this multiyear authorization of space station is possible and desirable because of two significant developments championed by the Science Committee. First NASA has finally begun a reusable launch vehicle technology program which will lead to radically cheaper access to space, enabling much greater and easier use of the space station. Second, this legislation directs NASA to begin planning for the commercialization of the U.S. portions of the space station, including its operation, servicing, growth, and utilization.

Together, these two steps make possible the real reason I feel we are building the space station: to begin the expansion of American civilization, powered by free enterprise, into the space frontier. And that is why we are passing this multiyear authorization of space station separately from the rest of the NASA budget. By passing this bill we are sending a message that this is our priority: opening space to human enterprise, and propelling all of mankind into a new era of technology, freedom, and prosperity.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CRAMER], who represents the Marshall Space Center in Huntsville.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the International Space Station Authorization Act, and I want to congratulate the chairman of the full committee. I also want to congratulate the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics. As these two fine gentlemen know, every year we dot every "i" and cross every "t" with regard to NASA. Unfortunately, my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. ROEMER],

who has already left the Chamber, cannot see that. He participates in that, but he just cannot let go of that.

There have been nine votes in the House to terminate the space station since I came to Congress in 1991, and the space station has survived every vote. Now along the way we have, in fact, held NASA's feet to the fire. The space station was redesigned in 1993. The goals of NASA have been refocused and reformed, and I think this process has allowed us to refocus that and to accomplish many things, but enough already. I think this bill is the right thing to do, and this is the right time to do it.

The Congress has spoken definitively in its support for space station. I think the margin of votes recently is a reflection of that. Now is the time to put this debate to rest, and I think this multiyear bill will accomplish that goal.

My colleague from Indiana as well has made it sound as if, once this piece of legislation is passed, that that will be the end of the monitoring period. Of course it will not. As the chairman has pointed out, we will still have our annual appropriations process that we must go through so we have an opportunity to adjust when and if we need to do that.

I think, as well as I must add, that for the benefit of the fine NASA employees that are out there that have given their good careers to work in this program that this is a bill that makes sense. Let us do it. Let us get on with it. I thank the chairman for giving us that opportunity.

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Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, as they are doing out in the western part of this country, they are saving their best lawyer for the closing arguments in Los Angeles tonight. We have probably one of our very best to make the last argument for the space center.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Houston, TX, the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, who represents Johnson Space Center very ably.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding time to me, and I would like to pay tribute to him for his longstanding effort on this, and for the work he has done in support of the space station and also in support of NASA. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] for his commitment and willingness in many instances to compromise on some very important issues.

Might I say for just a moment, Mr. Chairman, I would like to give appreciation to the many employees at our respective centers around the Nation, for they have downsized and cutsize and modernized and attempted to make this thing called NASA and the space station work effectively and efficiently.

For as long as man has walked this Earth, he has explored his surround-

ings and expanded his frontiers. History has demonstrated that as an inherent part of our genetic makeup as humans we pursue knowledge and understanding of ourselves and the universe in which we live. It is unassailable that these very tendencies are responsible for everything we take for granted today.

Clearly, I believe H.R. 1601 should be supported, because I happen to think that the space station is the work of the 21st century. Along with the research in medical technology and biomedical technology and the new technologies that will be forged through this research, I can see into the future the opportunities for children in inner city communities to grow up and be trained and to work in those researches that may be garnered through the space station. We must create a new work for America, and that work has to be technological work.

I would say that H.R. 1601 is not a waste of money, but in fact contributes to the future of this Nation. These are terrible times, with cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. Unfortunately, in these days of budget reductions and seemingly intractable social problems, there are those who protest these very activities. I want to see a fix to Medicare and Medicaid, but I would want us not to turn inward, abandoning discovery, in a scornful rebuke of our very nature.

From this country's inception, and specifically after World War II, the United States has played a leadership role in science and technology. Indeed, it has been one of the hallmarks of our Nation. In our budget-cutting and political feuding, it is important that we not forget nor forsake this amazing heritage and the prosperity and advancement it has brought.

Space Station Alpha is such an opportunity. In conjunction with our international partners we have forged a chance to begin our journey to the next frontier. Should we let them dominate us? Of course not. I hope the Committee on Science will be in the forthright position to oversee those relationships, and assure that this country remains in the forefront, in a leadership role on the space station.

Alpha will allow parallel possibilities in long-term biological materials and environmental research. In pursuit of this noble goal, we have before us today a bill which will allow the timely and successful completion of this project. I would have hoped that we would have intertwined it with massive spending. I do hope that NASA and space station are strong, and the gentleman and I had offered an amendment in committee to assure that.

I will not do so this time, but I will admonish all of us as members of the committee and of the House to ensure that all the sciences will be safe, and that space station continues to grow and will be strong, along with NASA and its other sciences. We hope H.R. 1601 will provide NASA with a 7-year

stable funding base which, in terms of time, will limit the costly delays and weakened confidence of our international partners.

I am gratified to say, as my colleague, the gentleman from Texas, has indicated, with his leadership, the innovative efforts with biological research that are being forthrightly discussed by leaders of the Texas Medical Center represent an exciting opportunity for space station.

This bill, H.R. 1601, allows that to happen if this measure is passed, but it also ensures that the station and the program will remain on time and on budget, with annual certifications by NASA, that additional funds will not be required, that the program funding reserves are adequate, and that no production and construction delays are anticipated.

I would say to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER], I am gratified by the fact that he has made it very clear that the Committee on Science will continue its oversight and that we will hold NASA to be accountable. It is important that we safeguard this country's investment of time, money and effort in this great effort.

Let me raise, however, two serious points. I would raise the serious concern regarding the implementation of safety oversight. I would argue vigorously that NASA should be a real partner in space station privatization. Further, I reemphasize the importance that Congress should continue its oversight in making sure that the space station, despite its multiyear funding, is efficient, that it maintains its safety record, and that we have real involvement as it proceeds to become the work of the 21st century.

So I do, in spite of these concerns, ask my colleagues to support H.R. 1601. I believe it is in the best interests of our Nation, our future, and our children, and it assures our continued international leadership and world leadership in technology and, as well, biomedical research.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. SALMON].

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Chairman, why is it so important that we come together and pass this bill today? Since 1969 the United States has focused its space program on the construction of a space station to serve as a laboratory for scientific experiments and extended habitation of humans in space. To this end, Americans will have spent billions of dollars, and in the process developed the space shuttle, a reusable launch transport system to service it.

The knowledge we have gained in this process has been invaluable. Technology developed for the space shuttle is helping make airline flights safer and more efficient. Medical advances and equipment and the study of diseases is helping to save lives here on Earth. We can expect more progress in these areas from the international

Space Station Alpha, as well as advances across a spectrum of emerging technologies.

The money we spend on space station finds practical applications for daily life on Earth, and it is money well spent. Unlike other Government programs, every dollar spent on space programs returns at least \$2 in direct and indirect benefits.

Why is it important for us to pass a multiyear authorization? In order to achieve the best, most cost-effective space station to meet the operating goal of 1998, the program requires stability. Yearly budget balances just serve to distract NASA from its mission. Space Station Alpha is already under construction at Marshall Space Flight Center and other centers around the country. In order to meet the scheduled launch of the first module in December 1997, NASA is committed to delivering the space station on time and on budget. H.R. 1601 ensures this by requiring the administrator to certify these conditions are met.

In addition, this bill sets up an annual authorizing cap through 2002, thus steering clear of cost overruns that have plagued the program in the past. We are taking responsibility by providing the proper level of oversight to avoid budgetary problems down the line. Our support is vital for the success of this program. The space shuttle will at last fulfill its envisioned mission as a primary vehicle for space station assembly, and a link between Earth and Alpha. We can only imagine the scientific advances developed on Alpha that will be an integral part of human life in the next century.

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1601, the International Space Station Authorization Act of 1995.

The American people are tired of Washington wasting their money on frivolous projects. Projects that begin with good intentions. Projects that grow in size and price and begin to take on a life of their own because no one has the courage to stop them.

Proponents of this bill state that we must authorize the space station for the next 7 years to demonstrate a commitment to our international partners. Meanwhile, we leave ourselves no way out should any of our partners decide to end or decrease their participation. And if they do drop out, we will be forced to increase our spending to pick up the slack, or publicly admit that we have spent billions on a failed program.

Full program authorization is premature and ill-advised. Boeing has still not signed contracts with major subcontractors. International agreements have not been reached.

Space station supporters recognize that the program may not have the financial reserves to cover overruns. They acknowledge that our international partners are facing budget constraints and may not be able to fully participate. What they refuse to admit is that we do not need to spend \$94 billion to construct and maintain the space station until 2012 in order to demonstrate a cooperative international effort in space.

I have too many questions and far too many doubts about the space station to support a 1-

year, let alone a 7-year, \$13 billion authorization. We cannot afford the space station and we cannot afford to make the space station NASA's top priority at the expense of other worthwhile programs.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this bill which authorizes the international space station through completion in 2002. This House, during consideration of the VA/HUD appropriations bill, and the Senate, just yesterday, made very clear America's commitment to our international space station program.

Efforts to kill this very important program have been soundly defeated because the American people understand the significance of our manned space program to our nation's future. They share the excitement of the exploration of space because it touches the core of our American identity as pioneering adventurers.

And the success of the space station bears directly on how our future here on Earth, in the United States, in our schools, and hospitals, offices and factories will be shaped.

The opponents of the space station program have fought their hardest and they have lost. It's time for them to accept the will of the country.

This doesn't mean they shouldn't be watchdogs of the program—this bill requires certification that the program be on schedule and on budget each year in order for the authorization to remain in effect. But let me be clear, the debate over the existence of the program should end.

Mr. Chairman, just a few months ago, many around the world shared the excitement of the successful Shuttle-Mir docking. It was a nail-biting effort that required precision within thousandths-of-an-inch.

There can be no doubt that this was a significant achievement, but I wish it wasn't. At one point, watching the shuttle take off became commonplace. At one point, even the act of landing on the Moon became just another landing.

I'm looking forward to the day when the shuttle docking with the space station miles above the Earth no longer attracts attention because it's routine. This bill is an important step toward that day.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill—it gives stability to the station program, certainty to our international partners and it represents America's long-term commitment to our manned space program and the international space station.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Chairman. This Congress has made budget cutting a priority. We have cut housing programs by \$4.9 billion, directly effecting the poor and elderly. We have cut the EPA by \$2.3 billion, threatening our water, air, and food safety. We have cut student loan programs by \$918 million. We have eliminated summer youth programs to save \$871 million. These budget cuts will affect every American, and come out of every pocket. Well, almost every pocket. The Science Committee has recommended that NASA should receive \$2.1 billion next year to build a space station. NASA's space station budget went untouched in this appropriations cycle, and received the same amount it got last year. However, all of NASA's non-space station programs were cut by 6 percent. We will gouge our seniors, our children, and our environment, but not the space station.

This authorization bill would give NASA \$13.1 billion over the next 7 years, to conduct experiments in a permanent space station. The Republican budget requires us to cut \$10.1 billion from student loans over the same period.

Budgeting priorities aside, this program is a bad idea. In 1984, the space station was originally budgeted at \$8 billion over the 40-year life of the project. We've already spent \$11 billion. According to a recent GAO estimate, the figure for completion has risen to \$93 billion. Perhaps we should spend our money improving this planet before we start wasting money on outer space.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the Members for the debate, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SALMON) having assumed the chair, Mr. HOBSON, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 1601) to authorize appropriations to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to develop, assemble, and operate the International Space Station, had come to no resolution thereon.

POLITICAL SUPPRESSION HEARINGS

(Mr. SKAGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, political suppression hearings in the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight begin tomorrow and its first victim, if Members can believe it, is the YMCA.

In today's New York Times, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH], the subcommittee chairman, makes it clear these hearings will be used to investigate groups who have opposed the Republican agenda.

First, the majority attached the Istook political suppression amendment to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. Next they poisoned the conference on the Treasury Postal bill by insisting on it there. Now the cancer has spread to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

The Istook amendment restricting so-called political advocacy might have been written as satire by George Orwell, or, in all seriousness, by Joe McCarthy. It is an intrusive regulatory scheme designed to gag groups who wish to participate in the political life of America.

If you have any doubt, Mr. Speaker, just look at this demand for the production of documents issued by the subcommittee chairman to witnesses at the hearing, requiring them to